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the number of prominent microscopists in that vicinity, an active and successful society may be looked for. The first officers are as follows: President, Prof. S. A. Lattimore; vice-president, C. C. Merriman; secretary, Dr. E. Line; treasurer, Dr. C. E. Rider.

AMERICAN QUARTERLY MICROSCOPICAL JOURNAL.—This new journal is published by Hitchcock and Wall, at No. 150 Nassau street, New York. The second number, just published, fully justifies the promise of the first, and establishes the Journal as a carefully edited and liberally published work, characterized by an abundance of elaborate memoirs upon microscopical subjects. Illustrations of a high grade are introduced when required. An able summary is also given of recent news and publications; though it may be doubted whether the news as such, can be given in a quarterly with sufficient promptness to meet all the requirements of modern science. It only remains for those who use the microscope or study its revelations to decide whether they will render the new enterprise permanent by making it self-sustaining. A good subscription list is all that is required in addition to what the proprietors have already accomplished.

SALE OF A MICROSCOPICAL LIBRARY.—The library of the late Jno. E. Gavitt is now being broken up, and catalogues of the books for sale can be obtained from his son, W. E. Gavitt, of Stockbridge, Mass. The library includes many rare and almost inaccessible works, which will be doubly valuable as mementos of one of the earliest American cultivators of Microscopy. Mr. Gavitt also possesses a very fine copper-plate portrait of old Anthony von Leeuwenhoek, which, though not specified in the catalogue, could probably be obtained by any one who would appreciate it at its real value.

SPRING CLIPS.—E. H. Hawley, of 102 Grove street, New Haven, Conn., has recently made spring clips for the use of several distinguished histologists. The clips are very light and neat, being made of light steel wire, and having a leather disk instead of a cork to press on the cover. They can be bought for seventy-five cents per dozen.

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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

— WE are sorry to learn that the Legislatures of Georgia and North Carolina have suspended the geological surveys of those States. This is much to be regretted, since both regions will amply repay to the people the small amounts heretofore expended on them, if only continued long enough to permit the results to be elaborated and published. These measures are a blow at the educational interests of those States which we had not looked for from so-called "reform" legislatures.

— A recent number of the *Gold Hill* (Nevada) *News*, says: "The artificial lake at the mouth of the Sutro Tunnel swarms with fish from three to four inches in length. They were planted in the lake by some Indians about fifteen months ago. They have increased at a wonderful rate, and there now appear to be millions of them. These fish are likely to find themselves in literally hot water when pumping from the flooded mines has been commenced."

— We have received the fourth, fifth and sixth plates of Leuckart and Nitsche's *Zoologische Wandtafeln*; these diagrams illustrating the structure of different types of the animal kingdom. Each diagram is a lithograph, costing in Germany from eighty pfgr. to at most two marks. They are thus cheap, and on the whole most excellent, and will prove serviceable in schools and colleges. The present diagrams represent the Crustacea and the anatomy of the living crinoid *Rhizocrinus*. This is a most valuable diagram, and very cheap. The sixth represents the metamorphosis of the potato beetle, *Doryphora 10-lineata*, and is not particularly well done. One of the figures is not accurate, nor is the beetle sufficiently typical of the Coleoptera, to be selected as a subject for a diagram. They are published by Theodor Fischer, but can be imported, we suppose, through B. Westermann & Co., 524 Broadway, N. Y., or any other importers of German books.

— In the course of a couple hours' search last August, by Prof. A. S. Packard, Jr., and Mr. L. A. Lee, at the Fossil Fish Cut, Green river, Wyoming, the results of which were sent to Mr. S. H. Scudder for identification and description; nearly fifty new species of insects were discovered, showing that these beds are much richer in fossil insects than formerly supposed; nearly all the orders are represented; among them a new dragon-fly, several grasshoppers, eight new Hymenoptera, two new Heteropterous Hemiptera, and eighteen Homopterous Hemiptera, nearly all new and determinable, fifteen new species of Coleoptera, and twenty new species of Diptera. Mr. Scudder is engaged upon a general work on the Tertiary insects of the West, to be richly illustrated. It will form one of the quarto reports of Hayden's U. S. Geological Survey of the Territories.

— M. Lucien Lethierry, Lille, France, desires exchanges of Coleoptera, Hemiptera and Hymenoptera of the United States, for European species.

— Mr. Richard Rathbun is now publishing in the Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History, a paper on the Devonian Brachiopoda of the province of Para, Brazil. This constitutes a complete list of the Devonian Brachiopods at present known from the lower Amazonian valley, with descriptions of several new species.

— A paper was recently read by Mr. B. B. Redding before the

California Academy of Sciences, on the desirability of the introduction and culture of the olive in California. From the evidence presented it would seem that in the olive we have a tree that can be grown on the dry plains and naked hillsides of California. In the Eastern hemisphere its limits of profitable cultivation are as far north as the South of France, and as far south as Cairo, in Egypt. Wherever on the coast from San Diego to Monterey, and wherever in the interior of the State, within the limits of the temperature stated, there is an annual fall of rain sufficient to produce barley or wheat—on rocky hills and sandy plains, when once-rooted, this tree will thrive and bear.

— A Wilmington, California, paper, reports among the novelties of that neighborhood, a lake on Dominguez's ranch containing a great number of trout; the lake was stocked by an overflow of the San Gabriel river last winter; some of these fish have reached a foot in length. The settlers in the vicinity are revelling in this acquisition to the ordinary bill of fare.

— Mr. A. H. Curtiss, Jacksonville, Fla., has issued a second fascicle of 250 species and varieties of Floridan plants. Of most of the species enumerated he has specimens outside of his regular sets, as also of most northern plants, and if persons desiring a selection from them will make out a list of their desiderata (the numbers in Mann's Catalogue may be used) he will supply as many of them as possible at \$10 per hundred. The fascicles will be forwarded from Cambridge upon receipt of the price, \$20. The postage on packages or freight to New York or Boston will be paid by Mr. Curtiss.

— The unusually cold winter in California is indicated by the movements of the wild animals, which have been driven from their usual haunts in the mountains to the lower lands in the immediate neighborhood of the settlements.

The mountain lions, so-called (*Felis concolor*), are reported as very bold in San Geronio and San Jacinto, San Bernardino county, since the recent storms; in one instance intruding into the town of Banning in the night. In Carpinteria, Santa Barbara county, these animals made a descent upon a goat ranch and carried off sixteen Angora goats out of twenty-two; quite a loss to the rancher, as the Angoras are valuable stock. Deer are plentiful in the vicinity of Vallecito, Calaveras county, the storms having driven them from their higher retreats. It was recently reported in the local paper, that a party of Indians killed nine deer in one day's hunt. The farmers in and about Lower Lake in Lake county, also complain of the depredations of the "gray eagles" on their young lambs. In other parts of the State the grizzlies are prowling uncomfortably close to the settlements.—*R. E. C. S.*